## University of Notre Dame News and Information

**ND** Newswire

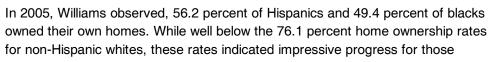
## ND sociologist Richard Williams discusses threats to minority home ownership

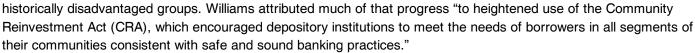
MICHAEL O. GARVEY • DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2009

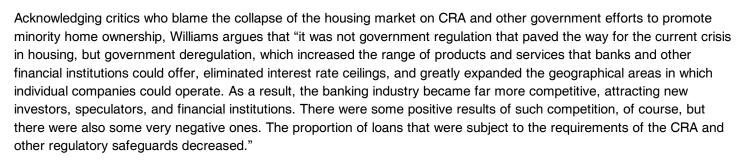
On Nov. 20, 1962, President Kennedy signed an executive order prohibiting federally-funded housing agencies from denying mortgages on the basis of race, color, creed or national origin.

According to University of Notre Dame sociologist Richard Williams, the dramatic improvement of American family housing security thus begun is now jeopardized both by the current economic crisis and misconceptions of what caused it.

Williams marked the 47th anniversary of President Kennedy's Executive Order 11063 by presenting a discussion paper titled "One Stroke of the Pen" to the Council on Contemporary Families, a national association of family scholars, mental health and social work practitioners, and clinicians.







Assessing the severity of current threats to family housing security, Williams concludes that "it would be tragic if the economic problems caused by irresponsible lending practices caused us to abandon efforts to end discrimination against minorities and to increase residential security for all Americans. New home ownership can still be encouraged by fair interest rates and by programs designed to help people manage their finances. For those who cannot or should not become homeowners, the provision of quality affordable rental housing should be a top priority. Children, families, and communities all fare better when neighborhoods have a stable core of residents who take pride in their homes and have hope for their future."

Williams' discussion paper is available on the council's Web site at <a href="http://www.contemporaryfamilies.org/subtemplate.php?t=briefingPapers&ext=housingdiscrimination">http://www.contemporaryfamilies.org/subtemplate.php?t=briefingPapers&ext=housingdiscrimination</a>

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